



Royston (*dent*)  
Urban District Council

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Report of the Medical Officer  
of Health for the year 1937

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Public Health Officials

*Medical Officer of Health :*

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
123, Norton Way, Letchworth.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

S. M. JACKSON.

H. F. J. BANHAM,

*Clerk,*

Council Offices, Royston.



# ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

### To the Chairman and Members of the Council

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1937. The Report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health circular 1561, dated the 10th of October, 1936.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres) 1626  
Residential Population (Registrar General's figure) 3876  
Number of inhabited houses 1202  
Number of inhabitants per house, average 3'25  
Rateable Value £24,417  
Sum represented by a penny rate £91

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Births		M.	F.	Total	Birth-rate 12'1
	Legitimate	23	22	47	
	Illegitimate	1	1		
Deaths	M. 20	F. 34	Total 54	Death-rate 18'9	
Infantile Mortality		M.	F.	Total	2 Infant Mortality rate 42'5
	Legitimate	1	1	2	
	Illegitimate	0	0		
Still Births		M.	F.	Total	Still-Birth-rate '51
	Legitimate	1	1	2	
	Illegitimate	0	0		

The comparison of the rates of the small towns of England and Wales with those of Royston are as follows :—

	Small Towns	Royston
Birth Rate	15'3	12'1
Death Rate	11'9	13'9
Infant Mortality	55'	42'5
Still-Birth Rate	'64	'51

# TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Tuberculosis for the year 1937

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 .. .. .			1					
5 .. .. .								
10 .. .. .								
15 .. .. .								
20 .. .. .								
25 .. .. .								
35 .. .. .								
45 .. .. .								
55 .. .. .								
65 and upwards ..								
Totals .. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

While the rates of the small towns show a fairly healthy condition in that they are sufficient to maintain at least a stationary population those of Royston show a declining population though the actual figures of Death Rate and Infant Mortality are quite good.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Senility 3

Disease of the pulmonary system 4

Disease of the circulatory vessels 19

Influenza 4

Malignant disease 14

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Infantile Diarrhoea, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. This is a good record. The general effect seems to be that the people in Royston are ageing and not receiving a sufficient number of young people.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified and no other infection. This is a remarkable record.

## THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

This hospital now serves Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Stevenage Urban Districts, and Hitchin and Welwyn Rural Districts. Up to now the record of this hospital has been a very good one.

The hospital was opened in 1915 and since then 2636 cases have been admitted and 55 deaths have occurred. This gives a percentage of 2·09 deaths. Of these deaths 24 were from Diphtheria, 8 from Scarlet Fever and 19 were from the deadly Cerebro-spinal Meningitis which occurred during and after the war.

This good result was largely due to the co-operation of Medical Practitioners in sending in cases quickly, even sometimes before the diagnosis was confirmed. Much can be done today in treating these infectious diseases in their early stages, and the Board is anxious to encourage the early admission of patients.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Number of children examined	144
„ with enlarged tonsils	
and adenoids	51
„ with defective vision	9
„ with defective teeth	23

The condition of the children improves, very few neglected and verminous children are now seen, and the mothers show a greater interest in the examination. More defects are now remedied though there is still room for more of this work to be done.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.O.H.

## Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1937.

### WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality. No shortage has been experienced during the year. No bacteriological examination was obtained during the year. Chemical Analysis of the water is as follows :—

#### Physical Examination

Appearance	Bright
Colour	None

Odour when heated to 80°F.	None
Taste	None
Sediment	Very small, consisting of minute particles of mineral matter and vegetable debris

Chemical Analysis	Grains per gallon
Ammonia, free and saline	0'0021
Ammonia, albuminoid	0'0025
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	0'056
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours	0'067
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0'85
Chlorine	0'90
Total solid residue dried at 180°C. (no blackening on ignition)	23'40
Carbonic anhydride (CO <sub>2</sub> )	6'50
Sulphuric anhydride (SO <sub>2</sub> )	2'35
Lime (CaO)	9'38
Magnesia (MgO)	0'86
Soda (Na <sub>2</sub> O)	0'78
Silica	1'12
Oxides of Iron and Aluminium	0'28
Alkalinity before boiling, as Calcium Carbonate	14'80
Alkalinity after boiling as Calcium Carbonate	1'7
Ph. Value	7'2

The mineral constituents probably exist in the water combined in the following manner :—

Magnesium Sulphate	2'58
Calcium Sulphate	1'07
Calcium Nitrate	2'04
Sodium Chloride	1'48
Calcium Carbonate	14'75
Silica	1'12
Oxides of Iron and Aluminium	0'28
Total Mineral Constituents	23'32

The analysis shows the water to be of a high degree of organic purity.



## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

12 new buildings have been connected to the Council's sewers, and 1 house which drained to a cesspool has been connected to the sewer and the cesspool abolished. 7 new buildings and 3 existing houses have been drained to cesspools, the Council's sewers not being available.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers or streams running through the district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The replacing of old insanitary types of hopper closet by wash-down pedestal closets and the provision of flushing cisterns thereto has been continually followed up. 18 new water closets have been built during the year. 22 hopper closets have been replaced by wash-down pedestals. 26 water closets have been provided with flushing cisterns with water laid on thereto. 25 closets have been provided with light and ventilation. 25 closet floors have been repaired.

## REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL

Weekly removal of house refuse is carried out except in an outlying portion of the district (Eagle Tavern and Burloes) where incombustible refuse is collected once a month.

The system of collecting house refuse from the point at which the receptacle is usually kept instead of requiring householders to place the bins etc. on the pavement ready for collection was continued during the year. The system has worked smoothly and the following particulars show the cost of the work for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Team Labour						
(Horse & Man)	112	12	3			
Collector	71	1	4			
Repairs to Refuse Cart and Tools	1	12	6			
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£185			6 1		
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

A total weight of 637 loads of refuse has been collected during the year and at an estimated weight of 18 cwt. per load, a total weight of 573 tons, giving a cost of 6/5½ per ton for collection.

Disposal of refuse at the Sewage Farm Tip by means of controlled tipping has been continued. All combustible material is burnt, and tins etc. are flattened before being layered and covered with ashes and earth. The cost of disposal for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Team Labour	18	17	6			
Manual Labour	117	3	7			
Tools, Repairs etc.	2	9	5			
				£138	10	6

This gives a cost of  $4/10\frac{1}{2}$  per ton for disposal. The total cost for collection and disposal is £323 10s. 7d. for the year or a cost per ton of 11s. 4d.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

- 15 Houses were inspected under the Housing Acts
- 9 Informal Notices were served
- 4 Statutory Notices were served
- 3 Notices under Section 11 Housing Act were served
- 3 Demolition Orders under Section 11 were made
- 32 Notices were complied with

### SHOPS ACT 1934

One shop was granted a Certificate of Exemption from the provision of sanitary convenience by reason of special circumstances, viz. the existence of a sanitary convenience for the flat over the shop, the flat being occupied by the resident manager of the shop.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one open-air swimming pool in the area open to the public. The water is chlorinated and the pool kept in an excellent state of cleanliness.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No council houses or other houses in the district were found to be infected with these vermin. Periodic inspection of the council houses is carried out, when any infestation is looked for.

### PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS

- There are no offensive trades
- There are no underground sleeping rooms



## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are no factories in the district where more than 40 people are employed.

The workshops in the district are as follows :—

Bakehouses 4, Bootmakers 8, Bicycle Repairers 4, Builders 3, Coachbuilders 1, Dressmakers 3, Furniture Maker 1, Masons 2, Plumbers 4, Photographer 1, Saddlers 2, Smiths 3, Tailors 3, Watchmakers 2, Wheelwright 1, Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers 2.

These premises are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	21
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	
(1) By the Local authority	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	0

### 1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1)a Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	126
b Number of inspections made for that purpose ... ..	242
(2)a Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ... ..	15
b Number of inspections made for that purpose ... ..	31
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	15

### 2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	131
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### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

#### A.—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ... ..	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	43
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	5
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	..	0
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding</i>		
A.—(1) Number of dwelling Houses overcrowded at the end of the year		1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	..	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	..	5
B.—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
C.—(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	5
D.—	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	0

## SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Following the rehousing of tenants from houses in Clearance Areas and from individual unfit houses, demolition has been proceeded with. During the year 31 houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished as follows :—

No. 1 or London Road Clearance Area	...	14 houses demolished
No. 2 or Normans Lane	„ „	6 „ „
No. 3 or Market Hill	„ „	3 „ „
No. 6 or Melbourn St. (South)	„	4 „ „
No. 7 or Melbourn St. (North)	„	4 „ „

At the end of the year there remained 8 houses in Clearance Areas to be demolished.

Five individual unfit houses on which Demolition Orders were operative were demolished as follows :—21 The Fleet, 8 Market Hill, 13 and 15 The Warren, Heath Farm Bungalow. Two houses on which Demolition Orders were made in 1937 remained to be dealt with at the end of the year.

## INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

There are three milk producers in the district, the remainder of the dairymen obtaining their supplies from outside the area.

There is no Graded Milk produced in the district.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers.

Periodic inspection of the farms and dairies is carried out, and samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, one Dealer's Licence was granted to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk obtained by the dealer from licenced producers outside the district.

Four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St. Albans. The result of the examinations showed that while the number of bacteria was not excessive, the presence of Coliform Bacillus pointed to some contamination with organic matter, which required to be eliminated. It is hoped that by enquiry into the methods of production, storage and distribution, future samples will show improvement.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Meat and Food Inspector, and inspection of meat and other food supplies is carried out systematically and examination of carcasses at the time of slaughter is carried out.

No marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is in force.

The humane killer is used for slaughtering all animals in accordance with regulations adopted by the Council.

There is no arrangement for the destruction of condemned meat and the practice is to render the meat unsaleable for human food, after which it is buried on the land.

There are no public slaughter-houses in the area.

The slaughter-house at Sun Hill which stood on land bought by the Council for housing purposes, was vacated by the occupier and the buildings demolished and the site cleared. By arrangement between the butchers, all slaughtering of animals in the district is now carried out at the Registered Slaughter-house in Melbourn Road. Though this arrangement eases the work of inspection, as regular slaughtering is carried out on five days a week and on two evenings, a considerable time has to be spent on this work if all animals slaughtered are to be inspected.

344 visits were made at the private slaughter-house in the district and the following carcasses were examined—Beasts 290, Sheep 871, Pigs 702.

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	212		78	871	702
Number inspected ...	212		78	871	702
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned ...					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1				5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	0.47%				0.7%
Tuberculosis only whole carcasses condemned ...					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4				12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	1.88%				1.7%

Other food condemned—1 x 6lb. tin of Corned Beef, 2 x 6lb. tins of Ox Tongue.

All the premises used in the preparation of human food are in a satisfactory state.

There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928 is administered by the County Council.

# Summary of Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year Ending 31st December 1937.

Surveyor's Office,  
Town Hall, Royston, Herts.  
1st June, 1938.

## NEW STREETS & BUILDINGS

Total Number of Plans approved	..	..	..	25
Plans approved for New Houses	..	..	..	11
Plans approved for other buildings	..	..	..	14
New Houses completed—				
By Local Authority under Housing Acts	..	..	..	0
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	21
Other buildings completed..	..	..	..	14
Drains laid to new buildings	..	..	yards	919
Connections made to sewers	..	..	..	12
Gullies laid to new buildings	..	..	..	40
Vent Shafts fixed	..	..	..	28
Fresh Air Inlets fixed	..	..	..	22
Inspection Chambers built	..	..	..	51
Water Closets	..	..	..	42
Pail Privies	..	..	..	0
Privies	..	..	..	0
Ashbins	..	..	..	21
Cesspools	..	..	..	7
Intercepting Traps	..	..	..	20

## HOUSING ACTS & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Houses Inspected. Housing Acts	..	..	..	15
Notices served under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	..	..	..	3
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	3
Undertakings from Owners accepted by Council	..	..	..	0
Houses closed in accordance with undertakings	..	..	..	0
Houses Demolished	..	..	..	36
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	48
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	4
Notices complied with	..	..	..	32
Legal Proceedings taken	..	..	..	0
Housing Act 1935. Overcrowding				
Houses visited and rooms measured	..	..	..	6
Houses found overcrowded	..	..	..	0
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	1
Houses provided with improved light	..	..	..	3
" " " " ventilation	..	..	..	5
House roofs renewed or repaired	..	..	..	21
" windows repaired	..	..	..	25
" chimneys repaired	..	..	..	2



„ ceilings renewed or repaired	..	..	..	26
„ floors repaired	..	..	..	8
„ rain water gutters repaired	..	..	..	16
„ walls pointed or plastered	..	..	..	9
Wall plaster repaired	..	..	..	10
Houses re-drained	..	..	..	30
Houses connected to sewer	..	..	..	1
Houses connected to cesspools	..	..	..	3
House drains re-laid or repaired	..	..	..	24
New drains laid	..	..	yards	355
Gullies fixed	..	..	..	35
Intercepting Traps fixed	..	..	..	8
Sinks connected to foul drains	..	..	..	18
New vent shafts fixed	..	..	..	5
Inspection chambers built	..	..	..	11
„ „ repaired	..	..	..	8
Water service pipes repaired	..	..	..	14
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	16
Downspouts disconnected, renewed or repaired	..	..	..	9
Yards paved or repaired	..	..	..	14
Water closets repaired	..	..	..	11
Nuisances abated from animals improperly kept	..	..	..	0
New sinks fixed	..	..	..	16
Water laid on to sinks	..	..	..	16
Sink waste pipes fixed	..	..	..	16
„ „ „ disconnected	..	..	..	16
Blocked drains cleansed	..	..	..	26
New water closets fixed	..	..	..	18
Flushing cisterns provided to water closets	..	..	..	26
Windows provided in water closets for light and ventilation	..	..	..	25
Hopper closets replaced with wash down pedestals	..	..	..	22
Water closet floors repaired	..	..	..	25
Pail Closets abolished	..	..	..	3
Accummulations of rubbish and filth removed	..	..	..	10
Houses disinfected—Scarlet fever	1			
„ Tuberculosis	1			
„ Other diseases	4			
„ Vermin	1			7
Slaughterhouse Inspections	..	..	..	344
Shops Inspections	..	..	..	4
Bakehouses inspected	..	..	..	8
Bakehouses limewashed	..	..	..	8
Dairies and milkshops inspected	..	..	..	34
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	18
Workshops inspected	..	..	..	25
Workshops cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	4

S. M. JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937 for  
the URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYSTON on the administration of the Factory  
and Workshop Act 1901, in connection with

# Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.*

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	0	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries ... ..)	25	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises ... ..)	—	—	—
Total ... ..	25	—	—

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:*</i>				
Want of ventilation ... ..				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	4	4		
Overcrowding ... ..				
Want of drainage of floors ... ..				
Other nuisances ... ..				
Sanitary Accommodation				
{ insufficient ... ..				
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..				
{ not separate for sexes ... ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..				
Other offences ... ..				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ... ..	4	4	—	—

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

# OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, Section 108.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	Instances (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prose- cutions. (4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c. ... ..	Nil.		
Cleaning and washing ... ..			
Household linen ... ..			
Lace, lace Curtains and nets ... ..			
Curtains and furniture hangings ... ..			
Furniture and upholstery ... ..			
Electro-plate ... ..			
File making ... ..			
Brass and brass articles ... ..			
Fur pulling ... ..			
Cables and chains ... ..			
Anchors and grapnels ... ..			
Cart gear ... ..			
Locks, latches and keys ... ..			
Umbrellas, &c. ... ..			
Artificial Flowers ... ..			
Nets, other than wire nets ... ..			
Tents ... ..			
Sacks ... ..			
Racquet and tennis balls ... ..			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ... ..			
Brush making ... ..			
Pea picking ... ..			
Feather sorting ... ..			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ... ..			
Stuffed toys ... ..			
Basket making ... ..			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ... ..			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c. ... ..			
Textile weaving ... ..			
Lampshades ... ..			
TOTAL ... ..	0	0	0

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*









